

NSC BRIEFING

PHILIPPINES

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No Change In Class. ☐

Class. Changed to: TS S C

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- I. Mounting discontent in the Philippines over continuing economic and political deterioration has recently been reflected in rumors that military circles, led by Defense Secretary Vargas, are plotting a coup against President Garcia.
 - A. Even in his own Nacionalista party, Garcia is being criticized for administrative inefficiency and corruption.
 - B. Garcia has in fact failed to act effectively on inflation, unemployment, and other serious economic problems.
- II. We have no firm evidence of an organized coup plot, and believe that if plans for such do exist, they are in an embryonic stage.
 - A. The degree of social unrest does not yet seem to warrant drastic action.
 - B. Vargas and other military leaders have been closely associated with efforts to keep armed forces non-political.
 - C. On 4 November, Vargas and Armed Forces Chief Arellano, who had earlier refused Garcia's demand for their resignations, publicly pledged their loyalty to the President.
 - D. Vargas and Arellano--who may both yet be removed--blame the coup rumors on Garcia politicians anxious to remove them and gain party control of the armed forces before future elections.